



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: July 21, 2008
Week Ending: July 20, 2008
CWP WA-CW2708

Grain Harvest Continued as Peaches and Nectarines Come on and Apples Looked Good

Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork were 7.0. Five counties were reporting grain harvest activities. Whitman County was reporting normal yields, but in general yields appeared to be below average throughout the State. The second cutting of alfalfa looked good throughout the State as hot, dry weather continued. Walla Walla County reported their processing green pea harvest was done, and yields were variable but slightly below average due to the late spring and summer heat at harvest time. In Thurston County, Christmas tree growers began top-working Nordman fir. Grays Harbor County reported cannery peas looked good, and growers were applying herbicide. Sweet corn growers were busy irrigating.

Fruits and Vegetables

In Yakima Valley, cherry harvest was winding down. Fruit growers were thinning, mowing and laying down reflective groundcovers in apple orchards. Harvest of peaches and nectarines was starting slow and late this year. Sweet corn, cucumbers and summer squash were harvested. Hop vines were filling in on the trellis and setting their flowers. Raspberry harvest started off slowly. Fields stunted by the heat wave looked better, and the fruit was developing nicely. Black raspberry harvest was ongoing. Hand picking of blueberries for harvest was underway. Fruit looked good but size was smaller than normal. Machine harvest was expected to begin by the end of July. Due to cooler than normal temperatures, Pacific County reported cranberry bloom had just begun.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 6 percent very poor, 25 percent poor, 20 percent fair and 49 percent good. On the west side, cattle operations were applying manure to fields and irrigating. On the east side, Walla Walla County reported non-irrigated pastures were running out of moisture while mountain pastures were still in good shape. Douglas County reported fire consumed 7,820 acres of pasture and 418 acres of CRP grass, and abnormally dry conditions continued. Klickitat County reported cattle on irrigated pastures looked good, and stream flows were holding up. Pacific County reported shellfish seeding and transfer activities continued.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	7.0
Last Week	7.0

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	14	42	44	0
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	18	33	48	1
Subsoil	11	48	41	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	12	34	54	0
Irrigation Water	0	4	96	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	2	6	92	0
Hay & Roughage	15	30	51	4

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2007	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Headed	100	93	100	100
Spring Wheat Harvested	NA	NA	2	2
Winter Wheat Harvested	7	4	15	11
Barley Headed	100	89	100	99
Barley Harvested	NA	NA	7	3
Potatoes Harvested	5	NA	9	11
Field Corn Silked	36	5	46	48
Field Corn Doughed	2	NA	4	3
Proc. Green Peas Harvested	92	80	89	92
Dry Peas Harvested	15	13	21	22
Alfalfa Hay 2nd Cutting	55	50	73	78

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	4	14	44	35	3
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	5	11	71	13
Spring Wheat Dryland	5	24	55	16	0
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	17	68	15
Barley Dryland	3	12	54	31	0
Barley Irrigated	0	0	42	41	17
Potatoes	0	3	21	76	0
Corn	0	5	41	54	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	5	44	51	0

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Clallam/Jefferson: Temperatures were in the high 60s and low 40s, and no rain was received during the week.

Clark: The pleasant weather made it another good weekend for Farmer's Markets.

Grays Harbor: Cannery pea growers took advantage of nearly ideal weather conditions to apply herbicides. Sweet corn growers were kept busy meeting irrigation requirements. Christmas tree growers were mowing weeds in established plantations. Livestock producers continued harvesting hay under good weather conditions. Greenhouse tomato growers began harvesting the first fruit of the season.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: The weather has been beautiful for the summer. Farmers were getting their hay in without rain.

Mason: There was zero precipitation during the week, and irrigation was ongoing.

Pacific: Dry summer conditions continued, allowing growers to complete a variety of field activities. With blossom time underway due to cooler than normal temperatures, cranberry growers were concerned about harvest yields later this fall. Production could fall substantially because berries will have little time to develop and mature this season. Harvest operations were underway for raspberry growers, and shellfish seeding and transfer activities continued.

San Juan: The weather was dry with cooler than normal nighttime temperatures.

Skagit: High temperature for the week averaged 70 degrees with no precipitation. Many farmers were beginning to irrigate their fields. Wheat was

beginning to head out and turn yellow. Grass seed was being cut, and raspberry harvest continued.

Snohomish/North King: It was another good week for fieldwork. Local hay harvest continued. Non-irrigated pastures were drying out. Hay prices continued to climb. Irrigation, where available, continued. Most crops were doing well with the warm weather. Some late planted fields were far behind normal. Raspberry harvest continued.

Snohomish/North King (2nd Report): There has been no precipitation for 14 days. The highs were in the 70s and the lows were in the 50s. There was nothing unusual to report.

Thurston: Another week of warm temperatures with no rain continued to cause drought conditions. Non-irrigated pastures and hayfields were beginning to turn brown from the lack of moisture. U-Pick raspberry and blueberry growers continued to report good yields and strong demand for berries. The warm temperatures increased flavor quality. Turfgrass growers were challenged to keep fields irrigated. Christmas tree growers began top-working Nordman fir. Several growers reported aphid infestations in both Grand and Noble fir. Livestock producers were continuing hay harvest and applying liquid manure to forage fields. Home gardeners began harvesting ripe tomatoes, beets, onions, radishes and new potatoes.

Whatcom: Daytime temperatures averaged 72 degrees with no precipitation. Raspberry growers were struggling to keep up with irrigation. Strawberry harvest ended. The third cutting of grass silage was complete. Winter wheat and barley were nearing maturity.

Central

Benton: Dry land wheat yields were down from farm averages.

Douglas/Chelan: Fires in Douglas County were contained. Damage occurred to some fruit trees, 150 acres of winter wheat, and 418 acres of grass enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program. Also damaged were 28 miles of livestock fencing and 7,820 acres of pasture. Abnormally dry conditions continued.

Klickitat: The weather has been hot and dry. Harvest will be starting on the east end of the county. The second cutting of hay began.

Yakima: Daily high temperatures remained steadily in the upper 80s to upper 90s while lows were in the

50s for the early mornings. No precipitation was received. Cherry harvest was winding down, and fruit growers were directing their labor and efforts (fruit thinning, mowing, reflective groundcovers) towards apples. Peach and nectarine harvest began nearly a week to a week-and-a-half later than normal. Sweet corn, cucumber, and summer squash were harvested. Hop vines were filling in on the trellis and beginning to set hop flowers.

Yakima (2nd Report): Average temperatures varied from normal to five degrees above normal, with no precipitation. There were no crop losses due to weather conditions.



Eastern

Adams: Winter wheat harvest began and should be in full swing by the end of the week. Yields were anticipated to be average to below average throughout the county.

Asotin/Garfield: Wheat harvest began in the lower elevations. The weather remained hot and dry, further reducing yield prospects and hurting quality of grain in the higher elevations where crops were still green and in need of rain.

Ferry: Hot, dry weather was parching rangeland. Dry land hay crops were not producing as much tonnage as hoped due to the drought.

Ferry (2nd Report): Dry conditions were affecting grain crops and pastures. Some producers began their second cutting of alfalfa.

Lincoln: The wheat head army worm caused damage to spring cereal grains--in the northeast corner of the county--which lead to herbicide applications. Winter wheat harvest began in the southwest corner of the county.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Wheat harvest was ready to begin. The quality was expected to be down with many slender or shriveled kernels.

Lincoln (3rd Report): Hot, dry weather allowed wheat harvest to begin in full swing for many producers in the southwest part of the county. The second cutting of alfalfa proceeded.

Pend Oreille: The weather was hot and dry with the high temperature of 85 degrees and the low of 32 degrees. Most hay was either cut or being cut. The first cutting of alfalfa was complete. Farmers that use irrigation were hoping to get a second cutting.

Livestock were on recently cut hay fields.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: Damage from the frost of July 11 was obvious now that peas and lentils were turning yellow. The damage, if any, on the spring wheat and barley won't be determined until harvest. Temperatures were in the high 80s most of the week with cooler temperatures at night. Grass seed harvest began, and a few hay growers began their second cutting. Spring grains suffered from a lack of rain. Cherries were being harvested on Green Bluff with some damage reported from high winds.

Stevens: Dry conditions continued. Hay producers were cutting hay and beginning the second cutting. Spring crops were beginning to show the results of the dry conditions.

Walla Walla: Processing green pea harvest was complete. Yields were variable, but mostly below average. The lateness of the crop put maturity in the middle of the hot spell. Wheat harvest was going full swing. Some pinching was noted, with yields off 10-15 percent from average. The second cutting of alfalfa was looking good. Non-irrigated pastures were running out of moisture. The higher mountain pastures were holding up pretty well.

Walla Walla (2nd Report): Wheat harvest began in more areas of the county. The weather remained warm and dry.

Whitman: Early wheat harvest activities began with normal yields reported. Harvest will continue to accelerate this week in Lacrosse, Colton and Uniontown.

Weather Statistics

Week of July 14 - 20, 2008

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS				LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIP			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	BASE-50F		BASE-60F		TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	PCT		
	---	---	---	---	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	INCHES	---	---	INCHES	DFN	NORMAL	DAYS
WEST															
Bellingham Intl	51	73	60	-3	71	-15	4	-17	0.00	-0.28	0	26.55	-7.82	77	164
Everett	50	73	61	-4	77	-14	9	-12	0.00	-0.28	0	32.20	-2.54	93	180
Hoquiam	46	69	57	-5	51	-26	0	-13	0.00	-0.28	0	55.08	-10.97	83	190
Kelso	48	88	65	+2	109	+11	39	+11	0.00	-0.21	0	30.93	-13.85	69	133
Olympia	44	87	63	-1	90	-1	23	-1	0.00	-0.14	0	42.38	-6.68	86	164
Seattle-Tacoma	51	84	65	-2	104	-4	34	-6	0.00	-0.14	0	33.25	-2.59	93	159
Shelton	47	86	63	-3	94	-11	25	-10	0.00	-0.21	0	55.24	-8.15	87	161
Tacoma WA AP	47	86	63	-2	95	-10	28	-7	0.00	-0.16	0	31.00	-7.71	80	147
Vancouver WA	54	92	69	+5	136	+31	66	+31	0.00	-0.14	0	35.51	-4.33	89	155
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	50	96	74	+6	166	+36	96	+36	0.00	-0.03	0	6.60	-1.86	78	65
Omak AP	50	95	73	+6	164	+38	94	+38	0.00	-0.14	0	7.30	-6.46	53	60
Stampede Pass	45	73	58	+3	59	+17	5	-2	0.00	-0.28	0	69.65	-8.98	89	186
Wenatchee	60	93	77	+4	188	+21	118	+20	0.00	-0.01	0	4.31	-3.48	55	44
Yakima AP	49	96	72	+3	153	+13	83	+13	0.00	+0.00	0	5.91	-1.60	79	59
NORTHEAST															
Colville	48	90	69	+3	137	+19	67	+18	0.00	-0.16	0	16.05	-3.78	81	118
Deer Park	40	90	65	-5	109	-29	39	-29	0.00	-0.20	0	20.02	+2.48	114	133
Republic	50	92	71	+9	151	+53	81	+47	0.00	-0.21	0	10.95	-3.37	76	98
Spokane AP	54	89	72	+3	156	+21	86	+21	0.00	-0.14	0	16.11	+0.54	103	120
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	56	96	77	+2	190	+12	120	+13	0.00	-0.07	0	4.16	-2.69	61	66
Moses Lake	52	96	75	-1	175	-3	105	-2	0.00	-0.07	0	4.26	-2.59	62	66
Quincy	54	93	73	+3	166	+18	96	+19	0.00	-0.02	0	6.63	-0.72	90	67
Ritzville	49	93	71	+2	147	+9	77	+9	0.00	-0.07	0	9.00	-1.78	83	86
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	53	101	78	-1	199	+3	129	+3	0.00	+0.00	0	3.79	-2.29	62	44
Pasco	51	100	75	-1	177	+2	107	+2	0.00	+0.00	0	6.81	-0.21	97	68
Pullman	41	90	66	+0	115	+5	45	+3	0.00	-0.14	0	16.65	-3.33	83	115
Walla Walla Rgn	55	96	76	+1	187	+6	117	+6	0.00	-0.07	0	13.32	-5.16	72	106
Whitman Mission	47	97	72	+0	153	+4	83	+5	0.00	-0.07	0	11.84	-1.13	91	110
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Lewiston ID	57	97	77	+3	191	+18	121	+17	0.00	-0.14	0	7.32	-4.13	64	93

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Friday September 1, 2007

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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National weather summary: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/waobr/weather/2007/summary/weth1606.pdf>

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